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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application	)	<u>PATENT APPLICATION</u>
Inventor(s):	James F. Zucherman Ken Y. Hsu T. Wade Fallin Henry A. Klyce	)
SC/Serial No.:	Unknown	)
Filed:	Herewith	)
Title:	SPINE DISTRACTION IMPLANT AND METHOD	)
		)



Customer No. 23910

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Matthew A. Mahling \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)  
Matthew A. Mahling \_\_\_\_\_ (Name)  
Signature Date: October 5, 2000

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO CONTINUATION APPLICATION  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)(1)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-referenced continuation case, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend the following claims as indicated below. Please cancel claim 1 and add the new claims set forth below. All pending claims are included for completeness.

90. (New) An improved method for stabilizing a spinous process relative to another